

DISCUSSION

Fifteen patients in three years does not constitute an epidemic of exotic disease but they do serve to emphasise the fact that a strange disease is liable to turn up at any time in any doctor's practice. To quote Wright (1966) "Most clinicians working in a large hospital in this country are unlikely to see more than one or two cases of amoebiasis a year". We would like to feel the implication be "most clinicians . . . are likely to see one or two cases of amoebiasis a year".

A constant awareness of the possibility of exotic disease is essential and the penalty of not being alert may be an avoidable death or the quick spread of a disease in a non-immune population (Lancet, 1965).

SUMMARY

Fifteen patients with tropical diseases, admitted to the Military Wing, Belfast, over 3 years, are outlined. Emphasis is placed on an initial awareness of exotic disease and of always taking a geographical history.

REFERENCES

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BOOK REVIEW

SYMPOSIUM – THYROID DISEASE AND CALCIUM METABOLISM.

Publication No. 33. (Pp. 156; figs. 19. 25s). Edinburgh: Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 1967.

THIS book contains the lectures and a report of a panel discussion given at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh Symposium on Thyroid Disease and Calcium Metabolism in December, 1966. There are seven lectures in all; three on thyroid disease and four on calcium metabolism. All are given by recognised experts in their field and the subjects covered are up-to-date and have the stamp of authority.

The thyroid topics are covered by Professor E. M. McGirr who writes on "Genetics and the Thyroid", by Dr. W. J. Irvine on "Autoimmunity and the Thyroid" and by Professor G. M. Wilson on the "Treatment of Thyrotoxicosis". These are all excellent and provide a useful account of the newer work in each subject by men who have been in the forefront of research in thyroid disease. The field of calcium metabolism contains chapters on "Newer Diagnostic Procedures in Disorders of Calcium Metabolism" by Professor B. E. C. Nordin, "Thyrocalcitonin" by Mr. T. Duncan, "Calcium Absorption" by Dr. A. W. Dellipiani and "Medical Management of Certain Disorders of Calcium Metabolism" by Professor J. A. Strong. These are all good but if the reviewer selects Mr. Duncan's article for special mention it is simply because it gives an excellent and succinct account of the exciting new work in hormonal control of calcium homeostasis.

For any clinician who wishes to keep abreast of current thought on thyroid disease and calcium metabolism this book provides a most useful and up-to-date review. For the candidate for the M.R.C.P.(Ed.) in Endocrinology it is essential reading.

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